117.

A SERMON PREACHED

At *Wimbledon* in *Surry*, October the 26th. 1760.

THE DAY AFTER THE DEATH

OF OUR LATE

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN

Lord, King GEORGE THE SECOND.

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A

SERMON

PREACHED

At Wimbledon in Surry, October
the 25th 1760.

THE DAY AFTER THE DEATH

OF OUR LATE

Most Gracious Sovereign

Lord, King GEORGE

THE SECOND.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

To the Rev^d. Mr. COOKSEY, at *Wimbledon.*

DEAR SIR,

So many Perſons of Diſtinction have deſired Copies of your Sermon upon the Death of his late glorious Majeſty, that I thought the beſt Way was to print it; according to the Permiſſion I hope you gave me, in the following Letter; for which I heartily thank you; and am

Greek-Street, Soho,
Nov. 23, 1760.

Your faithful Friend,
and humble Servant,
PETER SHAW.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To Dr. Shaw.

Dear Sir,

You know the encloſed Diſcourſe could not but be the Product of the Morning it was delivered; as ſuch it muſt be looked on as more the Overflowing of the Heart, than the Work of the Head. The Effect it had upon the Audience is to be aſcribed to the Subject, and the Indulgence they have always ſhewn the Preacher. However, as you deſire a Copy, I can deny you nothing: But be ſo good as to remember that

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it was designed only to be heard, not to be read. As such, I hope it will be considered by you, and by all to whom you communicate it.

I have always distinguish-ed myself as a Friend to his Majesty's Family: And never expected any other Re-ward for being so, than the Consciousness of having done my Duty. I am come now to that Stage of Life, which makes the Stations we are in here, of no great Consequence to us. I study to make myself content-ed in this Life; and look for Happiness in another.

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The Eſteem of good Men I cannot but deſire; if I am happy in yours, I muſt rejoice in it. The Favour I have received from you, as a Phyſician and a Friend, will always make me deſirous of approving myſelf, with the utmoſt Sincerity and Affection,

Nov. 3d. 1760.

Your moſt obliged, and
moſt humble Servant,
JOHN COOKSEY.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Kings I. 3d Chap. Verſe 9th.

Give therefore thy Servant an Underſtanding Heart, to judge thy People, that I may diſcern between good and bad: For who is able to judge this thy ſo great a People?

THE laſt Time we aſſembled here, we returned Thanks* to the Lord of Hoſts, the Giver of Victory.

And now our victorious Sovereign who gave the Order, is him-

* For the Taking of Montreal.

 ſelf

ſelf called before that Throne, from which he received all his Power, and all his Glory. We cannot but be greatly affected at ſo ſudden a Stroke, nor eaſily turn our Minds to any other Subject. It may not therefore be improper to indulge ourſelves in ſuch Reflections, as ſo important an Event muſt occaſion.

Crowned with Victory, but ardent for Peace; meditating an Expedition to accompliſh his gracious Deſign; happy in the Prudence, and Fidelity of his Council, and in the Conduct and Bravery of his Fleets and Armies; full of Days, and full of Honour, the good old King, hath changed a mortal, for

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an immortal Life, without a Pang, and without a Groan.

Happy in his Reign! Happy in his Death! And Happy in his Succeſſor!---But this Place muſt not ſuffer the Suſpicion of Flattery. Here we are to praiſe the Ruler of Princes; the great and only Potentate. But Gratitude to Him demands Acknowledgement of the Bleſſings we have received, as well as of thoſe we have in Proſpect.

And the leaſt we can ſay of our preſent Sovereign, is, that no Prince ever mounted a Throne with more engaging Goodneſs. When the Ear hears him, then it bleſſes him; and

when the Eye ſees him, it giveth witneſs unto him. Thoſe Virtues which have hitherto exerted themſelves in Submiſſion to the King, Duty to his Parents, Affection to his royal Relations, and Goodneſs to all around him, will now diffuſe their Influence over all his People. And no Doubt, thoſe diſtinguiſhing Graces, his moſt amiable Modeſty, and Humility, have already made him proſtrate himſelf before God, with this, or a Prayer ſimilar to this of *Solomon*.

'Give thy Servant an underſtanding Heart to judge thy People, that I may diſcern between good and bad: For who is able to judge this thy ſo great a People?' A

A Senſe of Gods over-ruling Providence, and moral Government of the World, ſo neceſſary for all Men, is peculiarly ſo to Princes! They have too many around them to pervert them to Evil; and nothing but a Senſe of their Duty to the Sovereign of all Things, can keep them from tranſgreſſing. Attending to his Laws will enable them to diſcern between good and bad; and obeying them will give them a ruling Spirit, to judge any, however great a People.

The Lord is a Councellor, always preſent in their Cloſets; and happy are they if they conſider themſelves

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in his Preſence, in their moſt ſecret Cabinets. *Solomon* kept his Eye upon Him, neither dazled with the Splendor of a Crown, nor proud of the Greatneſs of his Power. He knew that Wiſdom and Virtue gave the trueſt Luſtre to the one, and the ſureſt Stability to the other: And that Wiſdom and Virtue could neither be acquired, nor preſerved, without Religion and Piety.

He did not therefore aſk long Life and Riches for himſelf, for his own private Gratification; nor the Life of his Enemies, out of Malice and Revenge; but he aſked for himſelf, and for the Sake of his People, an underſtanding Heart, to diſcern Judgment;

ment; and the Lord heard his Prayer. And in Proportion as Princes ſincerely ſeek Judgment of the Lord, they will be ſure to find it; not in the falſe Glare of an enthuſiaſtic Fancy, but in the ſteady Light of the Word of God, in the Spirit of a ſound Mind.

Solomon was a Prince of Peace; and the Throne which *David* eſtabliſhed by a juſt War, he adorned with all the Bleſſings of Peace.

David got together the Materials; but *Solomon* built the Temple to the Lord. And after he had provided for the Honour of God, he extended the Commerce, and encreaſed

creaſed the Happineſs of his People. All were eaſy under his Government. *Judah* and *Iſrael* were many as the Sand which is by the Sea in Multitude. They dwelt ſafely, every Man under his Vine and under his Figtree, all the Days of *Solomon*.

But tho' we have the moſt pleaſing Proſpect, yet we muſt leave Futurity to the all-ſeeing Diſpoſer of all Things. This is among thoſe ſecret Things which belong to the Lord our God. But the Bleſſings we have received are ours; for them therefore, and for their Conſequences, we and our Children ought to be thankfull for ever.

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Let us turn, therefore, our Thoughts to that Reign which is now concluded; a Reign full of many, and which hath laid the Foundations of more and ſtill greater Bleſſings. No Prince ſat on the Throne ſo long, nor ſo gloriouſly, ſince *Elizabeth*; and no Sovereign ſince that Princeſs was ſo generally beloved by the People. The known good Intentions of that Queen reconciled her People, even to ſome arbitrary, and violent Proceedings; but the laſt Reign was entirely a Reign of Law, tempered with Mercy. Many received Pardon, but not a ſingle Subject felt the leaſt Oppreſſion from the Throne. All the Liberty was

enjoyed by every one, which was conſiſtent with the Safety of any one. Every one was free in his Perſon, in his Property, and in his Conſcience.

An enlarged Commerce encreaſed our Wealth; and Wealth improved the Face of the Country. Improvements in Agriculture, and Plantations, every Day added to the Plenty, and the Beauty of the Kingdom. The Ground-work being laid by theſe neceſſary Arts, the finiſhing is left for the Arts of Elegance, by the well-judged Patronage of his royal Succeſſor. But, what was a ſingular Felicity in the laſt Reign, though we have been involved in long and expenſive

penſive Wars, yet they gave little or no Interruption to thoſe, which were before thought the peculiar Bleſſings of Peace: Nay, our Enjoyments at home were encreaſed by the continual Succeſs of our Arms abroad.

With theſe public Bleſſings our late Sovereign enjoyed every private Felicity. God gave him a long Life, and bleſſed him with uncommon Health to enjoy it.

He bleſſed him with a Queen, moſt juſtly dear to him; and gave them a numerous and a happy Iſſue. He lived to ſee them anſwer his utmoſt Hopes; He made them

Princes in many Lands. The only alloy was the natural Conſequence of a long Life. He ſaw many of them fall before him. But he ſaw them live beloved, and die lamented.

The Grief for the Heir apparent to his Crown, was abated by his numerous and hopeful Offſprings, left under the Care of a tender Parent.

The Princeſs Royal was gratefully given to the Repreſentative of that Houſe, to which we are indebted for the Proteſtant Succeſſion. She ſurvived her Conſort, and ſupplied his Place, with ſuch Prudence, that the Wiſ-

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dom of her Adminiſtration, and the Care of her Children, gained her the Veneration of a People, who are not the moſt favourable to Princes.

Another Daughter was the happy Queen of a wiſe and virtuous King; and died greatly lamented both by him, and his People.

We cannot indeed ſpeak of the only ſurviving Princeſs abroad, without the tendereſt Concern. A Princeſs who hath had every Opportunity to ſhew herſelf Miſtreſs of every Virtue: As was a beloved Princeſs who died at home, and bore a long Illneſs with Chriſtian Patience.

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Of thoſe who ſtill ſurvive among us, I ſhall ſay no more, than that of One, no Engliſhman ſhould ſpeak but with the higheſt Gratitude; that both well deſerved of their Royal Father; and both affectionately lament their Loſs.

May they, and all the Nation be comforted by his moſt hopefull Succeſſor; may he be crowned with every Virtue, and with every Bleſſing. May the commencing Reign be even more glorious than the laſt. May the ſame Wiſdom direct his Majeſties Councils; and the ſame Succeſs attend his Enterpriſes: And by them may all *Europe*

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ſoon have, and long enjoy the Bleſſings of Peace. And then may the Religion of the Prince of Peace have its full effect upon all Men. May we all be taught, by the awful Suddenneſs of our Sovereign's Death, ſo to live, as to be always ready to die.

May Religion and Loyalty make us a virtuous and a happy People, bleſſed with Eaſe and Quietneſs in this Life, and with eternal Felicity in another!

soon have, and long enjoy the Blessings of Peace. And then may the Religion of the Prince of Peace have its full effect upon all Men. May we all be taught, by the awful Chastisements of our Sovereign's Death, how to live, as to be ready to die. May Religion and Loyalty make us a virtuous and a happy People, blessed with Life and Quietness in this Life, and with eternal Felicity in another.

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